

“ I made a wonderful friend half a world away from where I’m from. ”  
— Nansheng “Nancy” Tang



“ Our friendship has enhanced our lives and the lives of our families. ”  
— Rebecca “Beckie” Brand

Go to [www.nhcc.edu/publications](http://www.nhcc.edu/publications) to read the whole story.

**To get started**, submit an application to the Counseling, Advising and Career Planning office in the ES building.

Applications are available there or online at [www.nhcc.edu/conversationpartners](http://www.nhcc.edu/conversationpartners).

Join Conversation Partners today!

For more information, contact:

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North Hennepin Community College

## Conversation Partners Program



Experience a whole new world  
through conversation

**Conversation Partners** is a voluntary program that pairs students who are in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes with students, staff and faculty at North Hennepin Community College. The goal of the program is to strengthen discussion skills, expand knowledge of cultures, and build relationships across the NHCC campus.

This is a voluntary program in which partners meet at least one hour a week to converse and get to know each other. Meetings are scheduled at a mutually agreed upon location.

Some of the conversation topics at meetings may include current events, culture and customs, global issues, and entertainment. Pairs may read a newspaper, magazine, academic literature or short story together, and discuss pronunciation, idioms, slang, grammar, and vocabulary. The topics and format of the meetings are up to the participants, although suggestions for conversations are provided.

The minimum commitment is 10 hours, with the aim to continue for at least one semester (15 wks/15 hrs). The time commitment for this program is minimal compared to the benefits from participating.



### Participants can expect

- To attend a workshop or training and receive a guidebook on being a conversation partner
- To meet with a partner for 1-2 hours per week at a mutually agreed upon time and location
- To bring any literature or material they wish to discuss to their meetings
- A party or gathering at the end of each semester (fall and spring)

### As a participant, you are expected to

- Contact your conversation partner once you are matched up and arrange a regular meeting schedule
- Send a confirmation email to the facilitators of the Conversation Partners Program once you have successfully met with your partner the first time
- Meet regularly
- Maintain a log of meeting hours and topics
- Hand in your logged hours complete with your partner's signature
- Contact Michele Smaby or Karen Philbin if any problem arises or your partner is failing to meet his/her commitment

### Benefits

- Expand your understanding of people, the world, and cross-cultural communication
- Make a new friend
- Learn how to communicate more effectively
- Learn another language or dialect
- Discuss global issues from another perspective
- Earn a certificate for volunteer hours



You will be contacted via email to confirm that your application has been received.

Participants are paired with a partner based on hours available as indicated on the application form. If you were a conversation partner last semester or year, you will need to reapply each semester.